

Keynote speakers

Food supply and distribution to cities

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Key words: urban food security, food supply and distribution systems, SADA, FSDS

Abstract

The world's urban population has surpassed, for the first time, the number of people living in rural areas, and will continue to increase. Rapid urbanization is accompanied by an increase in the number of poor people living in urban areas. In most cities in developing countries, the percentage of poor people varies from 50 and 85%. The recent surge in international food prices will exacerbate the difficulties faced by many families in accessing food. Consequently, feeding the growing urban population with affordable and safe food is becoming one of the most daunting challenges to be addressed. This intervention will discuss food supply and distribution systems feeding cities and the role of food transportation. It will then address the need for food supply and distribution policies to be formulated and implemented by local governments and discuss the role of urban planners.

Measuring the food and economic contribution of UPH in Africa and Asia

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Key words: urban agriculture, horticulture, marketing, livelihoods, direct sales, proximity

Abstract

Urban and peri-urban horticulture (UPH) is currently a subject of passionate debate regarding how viable it is, how efficient it is compared to rural production in supplying food to cities, and whether the State should protect it from urban expansion. The debate is not, however, being supported by reliable data on the relative contribution of UPH to urban food consumption and income, as compared with other sources of food and income supply. This paper has drawn on the relevant data on the origin of urban food products from consumption and market surveys, and also from surveys and case studies of farmers' strategies and economic results in various cities in Africa and Southeast Asia. The undeniably patchy results nevertheless show the importance of urban agriculture in two areas: overall supply of the most perishable vegetables, namely, leafy vegetables; and complementarity of UPH with rural vegetable production. The results also show the specific contribution of UPH in the supply of vegetables with specific food safety characteristics, in particular organic vegetables, because when the production of these types of vegetables is combined with direct sales between producers and consumers, the consumers gain a certain level of responsibility in the production process. UPH contributes to livelihoods in a variety of ways, from the unique provision of incomes to urban households with few alternative sources, to an additional source of cash to urban entrepreneurs and civil servants. This paper highlights the need for additional research in economics on UPH in Africa. The available data on food and economic contribution of UPH are incomplete and need to be updated, and comparisons need to be made between cities to understand the reasons for differences. There should be more systematic comparison between UPH and rural horticulture in terms of income generation, price of vegetables, and labour use and energy use. The economic advantages of a multifunctional UPH should be evaluated based on contingent evaluation methods. Finally, the advantages of proximity in terms of increasing consumers' awareness of

the consequences of their purchase choices on the local economy should be better communicated and publicized.

Oral presentations

FAO urban and peri-urban horticulture (UPH) project experience: Security of access to land and water resources in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

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Key words: land security, hydro farm works, municipal committee for consultation

Abstract

Urban and peri-urban horticulture play key roles in supplying food for cities that are currently undergoing intensified urbanization. But urban and peri-urban horticulture can be carried out only on land with the proper water and agricultural infrastructures. The increasing population in and around large cities accentuates the problem of access to arable land for horticultural activities. An FAO urban and peri-urban horticulture (UPH) project for land tenure security in Democratic Republic of Congo (DCR) provided for the establishment of a Municipal Committee for Consultation (MCC) at the Municipal Bureau of Horticulture (MBH), whose role it is to involve the various services and expertise required to ensure integrated development of the UPH, as well as to manage the steps necessary for procuring the occupancy of good horticultural land. The MCC includes a technical committee composed of experts from MBH, Land Affairs, Cadastre, Urbanism and Rural Development, which is in charge of studying the available means and opportunities for obtaining the market-gardening areas targeted by the Land Law. This work is then forwarded to the MCC plenary for decision and action. To secure access to water, constraints related to access to water are identified by MBH experts. Feasibility studies are carried out by the National Consultant in rural engineering, and a Memorandum of Understanding is set up in order to allow the implementation of construction of hydro-farm works. Treadle pumps and a drip irrigation system are also used for securing access to water. Securing access to land and water requires the involvement of State agencies to ensure its success. It is therefore necessary to continue to inform politicians so that they may give the requisite attention to the problem of land tenure security, which, if not carefully monitored, discourages large numbers of producers.

Impact of government financial incentives on peri-urban vegetable production in Botswana

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Key words: Botswana, CEDA, financial incentives, vegetable

Abstract

In its effort to increase agricultural productivity, the government of Botswana has established financial schemes to improve vegetable production. The Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA) and CEDA Young Farmers Fund are encouraging farmers to become involved in vegetable production through financial and technical assistance. However, data on the impacts